

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

No. 11-553V

Filed: April 15, 2014

(Not to be published)

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CARLOS RIVERA,

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Petitioner,

*

Stipulation; GBS; Flu

v.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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*

*

Respondent.

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* * * * *

Franklin John Caldwell, Jr., Esq., Maglio, Christopher & Toale, Sarasota, FL for petitioner.
Lisa Watts, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC for respondent.

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

Gowen, Special Master:

Carlos Rivera ["petitioner"] filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² on August 31, 2011. Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome ["GBS"] that was caused in fact by a flu vaccination he received on September 25, 2009. See Stipulation, filed Apr. 15, 2014, at ¶¶ 2, 4. Further, petitioner alleges that he experienced residual effects of his injuries for more than six months. *Id.* Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury, and further denies that petitioner's current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury. Stipulation at ¶ 6.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, I will delete such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2006).

Nevertheless, the parties have agreed to settle the case. On April 15, 2014, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to settle this case and describing the settlement terms.

Respondent agrees to pay petitioner:

- a. A lump sum of **\$160,718.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner, **Carlos Rivera**. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a); and
- b. A lump sum of **\$39,408.42** in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, **F. John Caldwell, Jr., for attorneys' fees and costs** available under § 300aa-15(e); and, in compliance with General Order #9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

The special master adopts the parties' stipulation attached hereto, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Thomas L. Gowen
Thomas L. Gowen
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

CARLOS RIVERA,)	
)	<u>ECF</u>
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	No. 11-553V
)	Special Master
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN)	Thomas L. Gowen
SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Carlos Rivera ("petitioner"), filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of the influenza ("flu") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received a flu vaccine on September 25, 2009.¹
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome ("GBS"), which was caused-in-fact by the flu vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that he suffered the residual effects of his injuries for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition.

¹ While the Petition lists a vaccination date of September 30, 2009, petitioner's medical records show that the Fluzone vaccine was administered on September 25, 2009.

6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury, and further denies that petitioner's current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$160,718.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a); and
- b. A lump sum of \$39,408.42 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, F. John Caldwell, Jr., for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e); and, in compliance with General Order #9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

9. Petitioner and his attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a prepaid basis.

10. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the United States Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccine administered on September 25, 2009, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about August 31, 2011, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 11-553V.

13. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the United States Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

16. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury, or that his current disabilities are sequelae of his alleged vaccine-related injuries.

17. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

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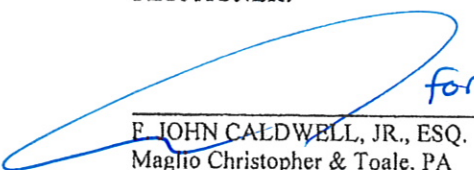
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Respectfully submitted,

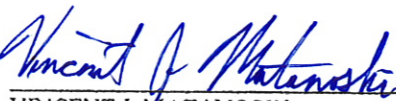
PETITIONER:


CARLOS RIVERA

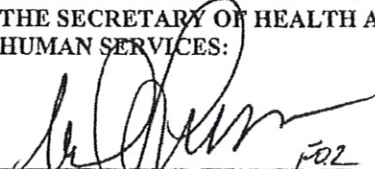
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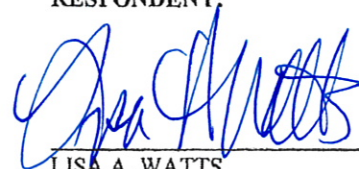
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